

## Visual Basic 6 Chinese (Lunar) Zodiac Assignment

Design an interface similar to the one below:



The purpose of the assignment is to tell a user what sign of the Chinese Zodiac they are. The user types in their year of birth in the text box and upon clicking the command button, the label displays their sign. Extras I've added are a graphic with the Chinese characters of that sign and if the user clicks on the URL, they will be taken to a site you will refer to for the base years you use in the calculation:

<http://www.new-year.co.uk/chinese/calendar.htm>

Have a look at the code which goes with this form:

```
Option Explicit
'This is the folder where the graphics are located
Const pictureFolder = "H:\CS20Ruo\zodiac\"

Private Sub Form_Load()
'Erase any picture in the picture box
ImgSymbol.Picture = LoadPicture()
End Sub

Private Sub Label2_Click()
'This is a detail that I would not expect you to remember!
'When the user clicks on the label, it will take them to the URL
ShellExecute 0&, vbNullString, "www.new-year.co.uk/chinese/calendar.htm", _
vbNullString, vbNullString, SW_SHOWNORMAL
End Sub
```

Notice that an underscore character ( \_ ) is used to continue a long line over to the next line.

```

Private Sub cmdCalc_Click()
Dim year As Integer
year = TxtYear.Text
'RAT
If (year - 1972) Mod 12 = 0 Then
    lblSymbol.Caption = "RAT" 'set the caption to RAT
    'load the Chinese characters from a file
    ImgSymbol.Picture = LoadPicture(pictureFolder & "rat.gif")
End If

' ***You need to add the other 11 zodiac signs here ***

End Sub

```

You will also need to create a *module* with this code. The module allows us to use a command to open up a URL in the default browser. A gain, this is a detail I would not expect you to know! I looked this up on the internet with a Google search . This link, for example, tells us how it's done.

[http://www.softcircuits.com/sw\\_vbsrc.htm](http://www.softcircuits.com/sw_vbsrc.htm)

**Create a module and type this code into it exactly as shown below:**

```

Public Declare Function ShellExecute Lib "shell32.dll" Alias "ShellExecuteA" _
    (ByVal hWnd As Long, ByVal lpOperation As String, ByVal lpFile As String, ByVal _
    lpParameters As String, ByVal lpDirectory As String, ByVal nShowCmd As Long) As Long

```

Notice that an underscore character ( \_ ) is used to continue a long line over to the next line.

### **Assignment:**

Finish this program by providing the code to figure out the other 11 signs of the Lunar Zodiac. Remember, you will need the base years information from this website:

<http://www.new-year.co.uk/chinese/calendar.htm>

You can pick up the code listed above by loading in the file

zodiacVB6.txt

Then copy and paste the appropriate code to your Visual Basic project.

File: ZodiacVB6.sxw (StarOffice/OpenOffice.org) 2003 September 18